

# IN HOUSE

## 2007 SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007

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Representative E. Ballard introduced the following resolution which was ordered to be printed.

A RESOLUTION adjourning the House of Representatives in honor of Hopkins County Jailer Joe Blue for his innovative plan to save public funds and feed inmates at the Hopkins County Detention Center and others.

WHEREAS, Joe Blue has served his community admirably in the field of law enforcement and corrections since 1988; and has served the citizens of Hopkins County as Jailer since September, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the increasing fiscal pressures of housing and feeding inmates nutritious meals and returning them to society as productive citizens on a tight budget has become increasingly difficult to corrections officials across the Commonwealth and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blue implemented in 2006 a jail garden program at the Hopkins County Detention Center, allowing inmates to grow cucumbers, zucchini, squash, corn, tomatoes, and other fresh produce on an acre of land near the jail. In its first year, the program, one of only three in Kentucky, produced more than 1,000 pounds of nutritious food for inmates far more cheaply than it could have been purchased. Mr. Blue expanded the program in 2007, increasing the available land by 50 percent and increasing the yield as well; and

WHEREAS, the program has become such an overwhelming success that it produces more food than the inmates can consume; and Mr. Blue has worked with the Senior Citizens Center of Hopkins County and the Salvation Army to provide nutritious meals to the elderly and needy; and

WHEREAS, the jail garden program has produced the fortuitous side effect of teaching inmates job skills in the garden and in the kitchen that will enable them to contribute to society in a productive manner when they have served their sentences; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blue is to be commended and lauded for his ingenuity and effectiveness as Hopkins County Jailer;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

1       Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby applaud the innovation,  
2       creativity, and attention to fiscal prudence shown by Hopkins County Jailer Joe Blue by  
3       his implementation of a vegetable garden at the Hopkins County Detention Center.

4       Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in  
5       honor of Hopkins County Jailer Joe Blue.

6       Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy  
7       of this Resolution to Hopkins County Jailer Joe Blue, 2250 Lafoon Trail, Madisonville,  
8       Kentucky 42431.